

Hawaiians. On July 12, 2005, The New York Times published an editorial piece that captures the essence of what we have been trying to do for the people of Hawaii.

Our bill, S. 147, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005, provides a process for Native Hawaiians to reorganize their governing entity for the purposes of a federally recognized government-to-government relationship with the United States. Following recognition, the bill provides for a negotiations process between the governing entity and the State and Federal governments to determine how the Native Hawaiian governing entity will exercise its governmental authority. The negotiations process is intended to represent all interested parties through the State, Federal and native governments; and provides the structure that has been missing since 1893 for Hawaii's people to address the longstanding issue resulting from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. This bill provides the people of Hawaii with an opportunity for reconciliation and healing so that we can move forward as a State.

Opponents of the legislation have characterized its effect as divisive. The purpose of my bill, however, is to bring unity in the State by providing an inclusive process for all of us, Native Hawaiian and non-Native Hawaiian, to finally address the consequences of our painful history. Lawrence Downes, The New York Times editorial writer who authored the article, captured this in his piece. I ask unanimous consent that the article entitled, "In Hawaii, A Chance to Heal, Long Delayed," be printed in today's RECORD in its entirety.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, July 12, 2005]

IN HAWAII, A CHANCE TO HEAL, LONG DELAYED
(By Lawrence Downes)

Less than a month after 9/11, with terrorism fears threatening to put jet travel and thus the Hawaiian economy into a death spiral, tourism officials there announced an emergency marketing campaign to promote the State as a place of rest, solace and healing. Anyone who has ever stepped off a plane in Honolulu, trading the brittle staleness of the aircraft cabin for the liquid Hawaiian breeze, warm and heavy with the scent of flowers, knows exactly what they meant.

The selling of Hawaii as a land of gracious welcome works so well because it happens to be true. But for the members of one group, that has always evoked a bitter taste: native Hawaiians, the descendants of Polynesian voyagers who settled the islands in antiquity and lived there in isolation until the late 1700's. Ever since Captain Cook, the native Hawaiian story has been a litany of loss: loss of land and of a way of life, of population through sickness and disease, and of self-determination when United States marines toppled the monarchy in 1893.

Over decades, the islands emerged as a vibrant multiracial society and the proud 50th State. Hawaiian culture—language and art, religion and music—has undergone a profound rebirth since the 1970's. But underneath this modern history remains a deep

sense of dispossession among native Hawaiians, who make up about 20 percent of the population.

Into the void has stepped Senator Daniel Akaka, the first native Hawaiian in Congress, who is the lead sponsor of a bill to extend federal recognition to native Hawaiians, giving them the rights of self-government as indigenous people that only American Indians and native Alaskans now enjoy. The Akaka bill has the support of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the State Legislature and even its Republican governor, Linda Lingle. It will go before the Senate for a vote as soon as next week.

The bill would allow native Hawaiians—defined, in part, as anyone with indigenous ancestors living in the islands before the kingdom fell—to elect a governing body that would negotiate with the Federal Government over land and other natural resources and assets. There is a lot of money and property at stake, including nearly two million acres of "ceded lands," once owned by the monarchy; hundreds of thousands of acres set aside long ago for Hawaiian homesteaders; and hundreds of millions of dollars in entitlement programs.

Much of what is now the responsibility of two State agencies, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, would become the purview of the new government.

There are many jurisdictional and procedural details to work out, but Mr. Akaka and others insist that the bill precludes radical outcomes.

There would be no cash reparations, no new entitlements, no land grabs and especially no Indian-style casinos, which are a hot topic in Hawaii, one of only two states that outlaw all gambling.

The bill's critics include those who see it as a race-based scheme to balkanize a racial paradise. On the other flank, radical Hawaiian groups say the bill undercuts their real dream: to take the 50th star off the flag and to create a government that does its negotiating with the State Department, not Interior.

Mr. Akaka argues, convincingly, that beyond the bill's practical benefits in streamlining the management of assets and the flow of money, it is a crucial step in a long, slow process of reconciliation. As he sees it, Hawaii's cultural renaissance has exposed the unhealed wound in the native psyche. He has witnessed it in young people, more radical than their elders, as they adopt a tone of uncharacteristic hostility and resentment in sovereignty marches. He has noted a wariness that is at odds with the conciliatory mood struck in 1993, when President Bill Clinton signed a resolution apologizing for the kingdom's overthrow.

Mr. Akaka says his bill offers vital encouragement to a group that makes up a disproportionate share of the islands' poor, sick, homeless and imprisoned, while steering a moderate course between extremes of agitation and apathy.

The spirit of aloha, of gentle welcome, is the direct legacy of native culture and an incalculable gift the Hawaiian people have made to everyone who has ever traveled there—wobbly-legged sailors and missionaries, dogged immigrants and sun-scorched tourists. The Akaka bill, with its first steps at long-deferred Hawaiian self-determination, seems like an obvious thing to give in return, an overdue measure of simple gratitude.

MASSACRE AT SREBRENICA

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the recently passed

S. Res. 134, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995, the largest single mass execution in Europe since World War II.

It has been 10 years since the war in the Balkans has dominated international headlines. The September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and the resulting war on terror have taken center stage and rightly dominated our foreign policy. But the 40,000 Bosnians living in the St. Louis area saw the ugly face of terrorism in Srebrenica in July 1995, when approximately 8,000 Muslim men and boys were massacred, and hundreds of women and children were tortured and raped in an area that was supposedly under the protection of the United States. Tens of thousands were evicted from their homes and forced to flee their homeland.

As a direct result of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, more than 40,000 Bosnian immigrants now live in the St. Louis area. In fact, it is a privilege for the City of St. Louis to be the home of more Bosnians than anywhere in the world outside Bosnia. Our Bosnian immigrants are productive, peaceful citizens who are making vital contributions to the revitalization of the city and adding ethnic diversity that enriches our community. But as they rebuild their lives, they still bear the emotional scars as victims of genocide and the evils of ethnic cleansing.

It is a solemn 10 year anniversary the world will commemorate in July. As we remember the victims of Srebrenica with this resolution, we also reiterate our support for efforts to identify victims of this massacre through DNA matching and allow families a sense of closure that comes with the opportunity to appropriately commemorate and bury their loved ones. The victims of this genocide also deserve our efforts to put international pressure on those responsible for this terrible tragedy, including Serbian political leader, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, and bring them to justice.

As we join with our new Bosnian immigrants to commemorate the Srebrenica massacre, it is my hope that we will commit ourselves once again to oppose the evil of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

HEARING HEALTH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I want to address this body in order to help raise awareness about an important health problem in our society. Hearing loss impacts the lives of 28 million men, women, and children in the United States. As baby boomers reach retirement age, that number will rapidly climb and nearly double by 2030.

The combined effects of noise, aging, disease, and heredity have made hearing impairments a reality for many Americans. Children with hearing loss may lack speech and language development skills. Seniors may find it difficult to talk with friends, listen to the